Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 DHA-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 DIWY-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 ORM-02 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8561

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI14074

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJ: HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

1. DURING THE CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS,
SEPTEMBER 22, THE DCM TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO INFORM
JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS TEJA THAT
ADMINISTRATIVE WITNESSES HAD BEEN CALLED BEFORE THE
FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING SCHEDULED FOR
SEPTEMBER 23. TEJA REACTED MODERATELY BUT REFLECTED
ALREADY EXPRESSED GOI CONCERNS REGARDING SUCH HEARING AND THEIR
POSSIBLE EFFECT ON THE CLIMATE OF US-INDIA RELATIONS.

2. TEJA SAID THAT THE GOI HAD TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS IN INDIA AND THAT CRITICISM OF THE US HAD NOW VIRTUALLY CEASED. IN FACT, HE SAID, CIRSUMSTANCES NOW UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE FAVORABLE THAN IN THE PAST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MATURE RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE DISCUSSED FOR SOME TIME.

3. DURING A BRIEF TALK WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE KEWAL SINGH (WHO WAS UNAWARE OF THE SCHEDULED HEARINGS), HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD JUST SEEN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIME MINISTER AND THAT THE GOI VERY MUCH WISHED TO

AVOID IRRITATIONS WITHIN US-INDIA RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE DCM'S INTERVENTION CAME AFTER
A DISSERTATION BY TEJA ON EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE
CLIMATE OF RELATIONS AND THE DCM THOUGHT IT
BEST TO ALERT HIM TO AN EVENT WHICH MAY DISTRESS
THE GOI. IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS REMARKS AND THOSE OF KEWAL SINGH
THAT THE GOI IS SENDING ITS NEW AMBASSADOR WITH THE
OBJECTIVE OF CALMING THE ATMOSPHERE OF US-INDIA
RELATIONS. THE GOI WILL BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUING
HUMAN RIGHTS HEARINGS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY COME
JUST BEFORE KEWAL SINGH'S ARRIVAL. SAXBE

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